

Calceby Beck, South Thoresby

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) Project Officer was approached by a local farmer to have a look at the Calceby beck to see what could be done to improve the habitat. When visiting the site it was clear the flow was being affected by too much fallen tree debris across the channel slowing the flow resulting in build up of silt on the bed. An additional farmer on the opposite bank and adjacent field also came on board as a long stretch of bank was being poached by livestock.



This section of the Calceby beck links up with downstream enhancement works on the Great Eau that have been undertaken in the past few years so it was a great opportunity to have this interest from nearby farmers. The opportunity to link up habitat improvement works on chalk streams is crucial to create corridors for wildlife movement.

The site is also partially a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) so it was crucial to have consent from Natural England for the work to be allowed to go ahead.



The aim of the work is to install livestock fencing and cattle drinks. This will allow the farmer to have greater control over the grazing intensity on the land and give the animals access to water from the stream no matter which section they are in. There are also plans for removal of several trees, particularly self setting alder, which are shading the beck.

This work will reduce the amount of sediment entering the stream smothering the gravels both here and downstream. It will result in an increase of flow which will scour the bed, move the silt along the system and expose those hidden gravels. This will provide more habitat for aquatic invertebrates and spawning sites for species like brown trout.

The work will be undertaken this winter 2013 by Creative Nature.